



MontCAS Montana Comprehensive Assessment System August 2005 Newsletter

Welcome Back

This short version of *JUMP* is to remind you of spring 2006 testing windows and test development opportunities in Fall 2005. A more detailed *JUMP* will be published in September.

MontCAS

MontCAS Spring 2006 Testing Windows

Feb. 13 - March 29	Phase 2, CRT-Alternate	Grades 3-8 and 10 Reading and Math
March 6 - March 29	Phase 2, CRT	Grades 3-8 and 10 Reading and Math
March 22 - April 12	Phase 1, NRT and NRT Alternate Assessment Scales	Grades 4, 8, 11 Language Arts, Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science
The required NAEP tests in reading and math in grades 4 and 8 are administered in odd-numbered years. The next administration of the required NAEP reading and math in grades 4 and 8 will be in 2007.		

MontCAS Phase 2

2005 CRT Released Items

Released items from the spring 2005 CRT and CRT-Alternate are online

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/Phase2.html#RI>

If your school or district would like to schedule training on the use of the released items and the new/improved *iAnalyze*, please contact Clare Bridge at OPI: 406-444-4431 or cbridge@mt.gov

Montana Educators Needed

Montana educators are invited to participate in CRT and CRT-Alternate test development activities in October and November.

CRT

CRT test development activities are for the Spring 2006 CRT administration in grades 3-8 and 10 in Reading and Math. They include item and bias review and benchmarking of constructed response items. The schedule follows.

- CRT Item Review
 - October 11, 2005: Grades 3, 4, 7, and 8, Reading and Math--Helena
 - October 12, 2005: Grades 5, 6, and 10, Reading and Math--Helena
- CRT Bias Review
 - October 12, 2005: Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math--Helena
- CRT Benchmarking Constructed Response Items (selecting exemplars)
 - October 12, 2005: Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math--Helena

Educators from across the state including curriculum directors and teachers who work directly with the grades and subjects being reviewed are invited to participate. Educators may apply for more than one of the CRT activities. Travel, lodging, meal, and substitute expenses (up to \$75) will be reimbursed.

- To apply, please visit the Measured Progress website. Submission directions and an application form are on the site.
 - <http://iregister.measuredprogress.org>
- Please apply by September 10, 2005
- Measured Progress will notify you by October 1, 2005 with detailed information.

CRT-Alternate

CRT-Alternate test development activities are for the Spring 2006 administration in grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 in Reading and Math. They include beta test training and participation in the beta test of the items. The training and beta testing require special education teachers with students in grades 3, 5, 6 and 7 who qualify for the CRT-Alternate. The participation guidelines are on pages 9 and 10 of the *CRT-Alternate Administration Manual* <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/05CRTAltAdminMan.pdf>

Below is the schedule:

- October 10, 2005: Training, Missoula
- October 11-28, 2005: Beta Testing, in teacher's school/classroom
- October 28, 2005: Fax feedback form to Measured Progress and mail back assessment materials.
- November: Conference call to provide feedback on the assessment.

Special education teachers with students who qualify for the CRT-Alternate in grades 3, 5, 6, or 7 are invited to participate. Travel, lodging, meal, and substitute expenses (up to \$75) will be reimbursed.

To register, please visit the Measured Progress website. Submission directions and an application form are on the site.

- <http://iregister.measuredprogress.org>
- Please register by September 10, 2005
- Measured Progress will notify you by October 1, 2005 with detailed information.

Sample Items

Sample test items for grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 are being prepared by Measured Progress to be placed online. When they are online, test coordinators and authorized representatives will be contacted by email. According to Measured Progress, these items should be ready about September 1, 2005. <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Assessment/Phase2.html#RI>

Released Items

Released items for grades 4, 8, and 10 from both the spring 2004 and spring 2005 administration are online. <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Assessment/Phase2.html#RI>

Detailed Performance Descriptors

Reading and Math in Grades 4, 8, and 10

For both the CRT and the CRT-Alternate, detailed performance level descriptors were written by the standard-setting panels in June of 2004. These detailed performance level descriptors augment the general performance level descriptors included on the 2004 and 2005 student reports. These items should be ready about September 1, 2005.

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Assessment/Phase2.html#Perfind>

Test Coordinator Information Needed

If your test coordinator is new to the position for the 2005-06 school year, please contact Judy Snow (jsnow@mt.gov or 406-444-3656) with the following contact information as soon as possible: name, title, mailing address, shipping address, phone number, and email address.

Until OPI has that information, important emails for test coordinators will need to be forwarded from the authorized representative.

Thank you for all your help.

<p>Contact Information Office of Public Instruction Judy Snow, State Assessment Director 406-444-3656 jsnow@mt.gov</p>
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